

Gen. Eaton, of Tripoli fame, sought with him in September, 1806. Eaton was said to feel aggrieved at the failure of the government to recognize the value of his services in Africa. He had been approached by Burr in Washington and had not been averse to listening to him. He now warned the President, but so guardedly as to offer no sure ground for executive action. Toward the last of October, more specific information came from the West. Burr's agents made no concealment of establishing a military encampment near Marietta, Ohio. There they were joined by armed parties from up the river. Various explanations were given of their destination. Some openly declared that the purpose of the expedition embraced the separation of the West from the Union.

In view of this definite information, and of the steadily increasing rumors, the President now dispatched to the scene a special agent, empowered to call into service the military as well as the civil authority of the Territory should the necessity arise. Orders were also sent to the Governors of the Orleans and Mississippi Territories, and to the commanders of the land and naval forces operating in them, enjoining them to be on the alert to check all infringements of the neutrality laws. Special instructions were sent to Gen. Wilkinson in order to show him that he was under surveillance, and if possible to hold him loyal. But Wilkinson had already grown alarmed and had determined to reinstate himself with the government. With 500 soldiers he was encamped at Natchitoches prepared to oppose a threatened Spanish irruption. Burr had been in steady communication with him and had fully unfolded his plans to him. Wilkinson now forwarded all these communications to the President, who on the strength of them issued a proclamation that certain preparations had been set on foot against the dominions of Spain in North America, and calling upon all good citizens and all the officers of the United States, within their respective functions, to aid in bringing the conspirators to judgment. There was no mention of Burr's name, nor of any designs against the integrity of the Union. Orders for immediate and